

Message Text

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44

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 EUR-25 EA-11 ADP-00 IO-13 AGR-20 CEA-02

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-02 H-03 INR-10 INT-08

L-03 LAB-06 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 AID-20

CIEP-02 SS-15 STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-12 PRS-01

OMB-01 RSR-01 /207 W

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R 181325Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2882

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

USMISSION OECD PARIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUENOS AIRES 5152

PASS USDA/FAS FROM AGATTACHE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAGR, TH, GE, BR, BE, AR, AS, DA, ID, PK, UK, LU, RP, IN, NO,

CA, FR, IT, NL, JA, EG

SUBJECT: AGRICULTURAL VIEWS AND SITUATION

REF STATE 135419

1. TO DATE NO OFFICIAL VIEWS EXPRESSED AS PER IMPACT OF CUTBACK IN U.S. AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS. OUR TALKS OFFICIALS SO FAR INDICATE THAT, WHILE THEY WOULD, IN OTHER CONDITIONS, BE CONCERNED OVER U.S. PLANS TO EXPAND GRAIN AREA AND PRODUCTION, THEY ARE RESIGNED TO SUCH U.S. ACTION NOW. GOA MORE CONCERNED WITH UNCERTAINTY OF PRESENT AND FUTURE GRAIN AND MEAT SUPPLIES (SEE BA 5000) IN ARGENTINA AND PROBLEMS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF PRICE AND NATIONALIZATION POLICIES. U.S. ACTION CONSIDERED INEVITABLE DUE TO INCREASED
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EUROPEAN DEMAND. PRESS NOTED U.S. ADOPTION OF CONTROL WITHOUT

COMMENT AND NOW REPORTING REACTIONS IN EC, ALSO WITHOUT DRAWING CONCLUSIONS OVER IMPACT ON ARGENTINA. WE HAVE REPORTED GOA ACTIONS TO BLOCK WHEAT EXPORTS AND RESERVE DOMESTIC SUPPLIES BUT WOULD NOTE AGAIN THIS LARGELY IN RESPONSE LOCAL SITUATION NOT U.S. MEASURES.

2. DUE TO RAINS WHICH DURING THE LAST 7 MONTHS HAVE SURPASSED BY 400 PERCENT NORMAL YEARLY AVERAGE, OVER 25 PERCENT OF THE LIVESTOCK IN THE FINISHING AREAS OF THE PROVINCE OF BUENOS AIRES WERE LIQUIDATED OR EVACUATED. THESE AREAS ACCOUNT FOR 23 PERCENT OF ALL CATTLE IN THIS PROVINCE. THE PROVINCE OF BUENOS AIRES ACCOUNTS FOR 40 PERCENT OF ARGENTINA'S CATTLE NUMBERS.

3. DAIRY PRODUCL ON EXPECTED DOWN CONSIDERABLY DUE TO LACK OF FEED AND TRANSPORTATION PROBLEMS.

4. FARMER ORGANIZATION REQUESTS GOA TO INCREASE SUPPORT PRICE FOR WHEAT FROM 57 PESOS TO 70 PESOS PER QUINTAL (47.5 PESOS FOR 1972/73 CROP) SO AS TO OBTAIN PLANTED AREA LARGER THAN 6 MILLION HECTARES. EVEN IF MEASURE ADOPTED, AREA SOWN WILL KIKELY BE NO MORE THAN 4.5 MIVHION HECTARES BECAUSE OF POOR WEATHER. SOME TRADERS ESTIMATE 1973:74 YIELD AT ONLY 1.3 TONS/HECTARE WHICH SOULD PROVIDE AN EXPORTABLE SUPPLY OF ABOUT 1 MILLION TONS. ONLY 2.9 MILLION HECTARES SOWN THUS FAR, 50 PERCENT OF WHICH IS IN EXCELLENT CONDITION.

5. PRICE INCREASES REQUESTED TO HELP COMPENSATE FOR 60 PERCENT INCREASE IN COSTS SINCE A YEAR AGO. LAST SEASON MINIMUN PRICE NOT INCREASED UNTIL SOWING COMPLETED, SO HIGH PRODUCTION DUE TO GOOD YIELDS, NOT TO INCREASE IN AREA.
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